

Soviets developing new missiles

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Defence Ministry formally announced Saturday that it is testing long-range cruise missiles in response to U.S. weapons of the same kind. In a statement issued by the official news agency TASS, the ministry said Moscow had repeatedly suggested to the United States that they both ban long-range cruise missiles but Washington had ignored it and begun deployment of the weapons. "In the interests of ensuring its security and the security of other Warsaw treaty member states the Soviet Union has adopted appropriate measures," it said. "There are being conducted in the USSR at present successful tests of long-range ground-launched cruise missiles," it added. Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov warned in December 1982 that the Soviet Union would develop its own versions of the American 'MX' and cruise rockets.

Rashid Ureikat appointed senator

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday appointing Mr. Rashid Ureikat as member of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) to fill the seat of the late Kamel Ureikat who at one time served also as speaker of the Lower House of Parliament. Mr. Kamel Ureikat passed away last month. Another Royal Decree issued Saturday endorsed a cabinet decision which appointed Mr. Ali Ghandour as chairman of the board of directors of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline and Mr. Mohammad Balqas as Alia's director general. A third Royal Decree appointed Mr. Hussein Hammami as secretary general of the Foreign Ministry.

Obeidat leaves for Soviet Union

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat Friday left for the Soviet Union on a private visit, the Arabic-language daily Al Rai reported Saturday. Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar has been appointed acting prime minister during Mr. Obeidat's absence from the country, Al Rai said.

Masri receives Indonesian message

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Foreign Affairs Taher Al Masri Saturday received a message from his Indonesian counterpart. The message was delivered by Mr. Abdullah Kamel, a special Indonesian envoy.

Syrian president arrives in Algiers

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad arrived in Algiers Saturday night from up a three-day working visit to Libya, the Syrian News Agency SANA reported. It said Mr. Assad and his host President Chadli Benjedid, who greeted him at the airport, drove straight into conference at the state-guest palace where Mr. Assad will stay. Presco at the two leaders' talks were members of the Syrian delegation and Algeria's Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim. SANA quoted Mr. Assad as saying on arrival that he would exchange views with Mr. Benjedid on bilateral relations and issues which are of interest to the Arab Nation.

India concerned over Israelis in Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said Saturday she was deeply concerned over the "induction" of Israel's Mossad secret service into Sri Lanka. The Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted Mrs. Gandhi as telling parliament a lower house that Mossad's presence in Colombo virtually amounted to a Sri Lankan security agreement with Israel. "We do not like the presence of foreign troops or any type of interference," said Mrs. Gandhi, adding that British experts were also understood to be providing anti-guerrilla training to Sri Lankan security forces.

INSIDE

- Saudis condemn attack on Beirut embassy, page 2
- Arab team to discuss development projects, page 3
- Europe has a different position from U.S. on Mideast, says Sir Anthony Parsons, page 4
- 1984 Olympics or just American games? page 5
- Ninth Arab Table Tennis Championships conclude, page 6
- Arab Bank chief stresses role of financing houses, page 7
- Soviets say U.S. will not win arms race in space, page 8

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Reagan initiative may be outdated, Kirkpatrick says

TEL AVIV (AP) — America's United Nations Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick has said that President Ronald Reagan's peace initiative for the Middle East, announced in September 1982, was not included in the Republican platform for the forthcoming presidential elections because it may be outdated.

The Reagan proposal calls for Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank in association with Jordan, and the Kingdom, which cautiously welcomed the initiative when President Reagan announced it, said last February that it considers the plan frozen.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick, in an interview with Israel Radio broadcast on Saturday, said the plan was not included in the Republican platform drawn up this week, saying it had been originally proposed to fit political circumstances at that time.

The Reagan proposal, which does not specify any role for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), came as Israeli troops, which invaded Lebanon in June

saying last February that the plan was frozen. His Majesty King Hussein said that one of the reasons for the failure of the plan was the U.S. reluctance to exert pressure on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon and impose a freeze on settlements.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick's statement on Saturday was the first indication from U.S. official circles that the Reagan plan may no longer be viable. U.S. spokesmen have been maintaining that the proposal was the only feasible solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick, known here for her sympathy towards Israel when the Jewish State was criticised in the United Nations, also said she did not think the United States should make a decision now to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Mr. Reagan has opposed a bill by New York Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan of six months ago that calls on the United States to make the move.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick said that in view of scheduled presidential elections in November "it is not an appropriate time to take such a major move as this."

Editorial comment on page 4

Sikh hijackers gain temporary refuge in UAE, release hostages

DUBAI (Agencies) — Seven Sikh hijackers on Saturday released hostages aboard an Indian Airlines plane they commandeered after winning a one-week asylum in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and a pledge to facilitate their trip to the United States.

The agreement to release passengers and crew members came after 15 hours of crucial negotiations at Dubai airport which at one point found the hijackers threatening to kill one passenger every half an hour and blow up the Boeing 737 if their demands for fuel, a safe passage to the United States and freedom for Sikh extremists in Indian jails were not met, one official who followed up the negotiations said on condition he would not be named.

He said in all, there were 73 passengers released in Dubai including one ailing 80-year-old Indian man who was carried off the aircraft earlier in the day. The official said there were six crew members and seven hijackers.

He said the hijackers were taken away by Dubai security police. "They were granted an asylum in the United Arab Emirates. The UAE will then help them leave for the United States as they demanded," said another official who was involved in the negotiations.

But the Indian government sources had earlier said the United States had refused to receive them.

The U.S. embassy in Dubai said the American government would not deal with hijackers.

Airport sources said the passengers and crew will leave later Saturday for Bombay either aboard the same aircraft or on another Indian Airlines plane that had arrived in Dubai earlier in the day to help transport the hostages once released.

Dubai policemen said a squad of Indian army commandos was on board but this could not be officially confirmed.

"Thank God, it's all over," said one tired Indian official who had been involved in the negotiations led by UAE Defence Minister Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Indian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abu Bakr Rahim. The Indian official was on a visit to the UAE when the plane landed in Dubai at 4.35 a.m. (0035 GMT). The hostages were released at about 7 p.m. (1500 GMT).

The twin-engine aircraft was commandeered shortly after take off from New Delhi Friday on a domestic flight to Srinagar, the capital of India's northern state of Kashmir.

The plane made two stops in Lahore and Karachi before flying to the UAE. The hijackers released seven passengers during the two refuelling stops in Pakistan.

UAE airports at first would not allow the plane to land. It circled in the air about two hours after which the captain said he was running out of fuel and he was granted permission to land.

Two women passengers released in Karachi said the hijackers were armed with two pistols and packages wrapped in newspapers which the sky pirates claimed were explosives. Radio Pakistan said they carried a bomb or a grenade and kirpans — daggers traditionally worn by members of the minority Sikh community. These knives are exempted from Indian laws against carrying arms on planes.

But officials in Dubai would not give details on the weapons the hijackers were carrying.

Meanwhile flights from and to Dubai airport continued as normal, with planes landing and taking off just behind the hijacked jet.

The hijacking, the second by Indian extremists in seven weeks, sparked off a row in the Indian parliament Saturday and threatened a new chill in Indian-Pakistan relations (See page 8).



Militiamen of the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) stand at attention Saturday as the body of Lebanese Chief-of-Staff General Nadim Hakim, who was killed in an air crash on Thursday, is carried through the streets of Kanai, a mountain village southeast of Beirut (AP wirephoto)

Junblatt expresses reservations over mountain plan, criticises Gemayel

MOUKHTARA, Lebanon (Agencies) — The leader of the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), Walid Junblatt, Saturday indicated new reservations about letting army troops deploy in the Druze mountains southeast of Beirut under a government security plan.

Mr. Junblatt, a minister in the "national unity" cabinet, repeated demands that further progress on the stalled security plan should be linked to the start of negotiations between Christian and Muslim leaders on political reforms to give Muslims a greater share of power.

If talks failed, "we will fight to defend ourselves," Mr. Junblatt said.

The 37-year-old PSP leader was speaking at funeral services for the army chief-of-staff, Druze General Nadim Hakim, who died in a helicopter crash on Thursday with eight other passengers.

Joint committee begins meetings

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for supporting the Steadfastness of the Arab population in the occupied territories held its first meeting at the Interior Ministry Saturday and discussed important issues pertaining to helping the Arab people under the Israeli rule.

Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs, Shawkat Mahmoud said that the meeting also discussed ways to cover a deficit in the budget of a special fund for supporting the Arab people's steadfastness.

The Jordanian side also included Acting Prime Minister Sulaiman Arar and Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani.

The Palestinian side was represented by the deputy military commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Khalil Al Wazir, Dr. Hanna Nasir, member of the PLO's Executive Committee, Saleh Ra'fat, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). The meetings continue Sunday.

The crowd interrupted with cheers as Mr. Junblatt criticised the administration of President Amin Gemayel and the rightwing Christian Falangist party headed by his father, Pierre Gemayel.

Mr. Junblatt said he blamed President Gemayel personally for the heavy bombardment of west Beirut during last February's round of the Lebanese civil war.

"Do you want us to hand our necks to this butcher?" he asked. "No," roared back the crowd, many of whom were Lebanese army troops or Druze religious leaders dressed in traditional black robes and white tarboosh hats with bright red tops.

"We shall not be the first to shoot in a new military confrontation," Mr. Junblatt said. "But if fighting is imposed on us, then we shall fight to defend our honour, to defend Lebanon's Arab character, to defend the

Muslims. We shall fight to prevent establishment of a Falangist state."

The PSP leader rejected what he called attempts by the Falangists to link the mountain security plan to the liberation of South Lebanon from Israeli occupation.

"Let the army enter the monasteries and headquarters of this damned ruling party and seize its fascist weapons" before entering PSP-held areas, he said.

"We will not accept political negotiations with Israel. No recognition of Israel, no negotiations with Israel, no peace with Israel," he said.

A simple security agreement should be reached with Israel to allow it to withdraw its troops from the south, independent of Lebanon's other domestic problems, he said.

Israeli newspaper reveals unreported massacre of Arab villagers in 1948

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli newspaper has published an account of a previously unreported massacre of Palestinian villagers during the 1948 war, saying hundreds of men, women and children were slaughtered.

The daily Hadashot said Friday the massacre at a village called Dweima, 36 kilometres southwest of Jerusalem, was carried out by a regular Israeli army unit composed of former members of a Jewish underground terrorist group known as the Stern Gang.

Military historian Meir Pa'il, a former army colonel and later a left-wing parliament member, told the Associated Press he knew of a massacre at Dweima, but claimed the casualties reported in Hadashot were exaggerated.

No more than 30 to 50 people were killed in the attack on the unnamed village, Mr. Pa'il contended.

Hadashot said that the late soldier-statesman Moshe Dayan commanded the brigade of the accused unit, but Mr. Pa'il said Mr. Dayan had already left the brigade three months before the

establishment. With the creation of the Jewish state, the country's leaders hoped to integrate the former gang. "In that climate publication of the massacre could have caused Lehi to return to civil defiance," Mr. Pa'il said.

Dweima no longer appears on current maps. In its place stands the Jewish settlement of Amatsia. Hadashot quoted the last village head, or the mukhtar, as saying that the army unit discovered 35 village families hiding in a cave and called on them to come out.

"When they began walking they were fired at with machine guns from all sides," Hadashot quoted the mukhtar, Hassan Mahmoud Hodim, as saying.

During a military inquiry after the war, Mr. Pa'il said, troops involved in the killing claimed they found items in Dweima taken from nearly 100 Jews killed by Arabs nine months earlier in the nearby Jewish settlement of Kfar Etzion.

"They said they went crazy because they thought these people had looted from the victims of that

massacre," Mr. Pa'il said in a telephone interview. He said there was no trial and no one was ever punished, but the troops were "reprimanded."

Mr. Pa'il said he had not published the episode himself because he had not wanted to raise bitter recriminations. He said other events in the first Arab-Israeli war still have not been published.

Mr. Hodim was quoted by Hadashot as saying: "Journalists did not come to us, and we thought of the living, not the dead."

A well-known massacre occurred in April 1948, before Jewish terrorist underground movements combined as the Jewish state's army, was the killing of 300 Arab villagers in Deir Yassin, a village near Jerusalem.

It was carried out by members of the Irgun Zvei Leumi, headed by Meachem Begin, who was prime minister from 1977-1983. Far from being hidden, the Deir Yassin massacre was investigated by the United Nations and became a by word for Jewish atrocities against Arabs.

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After four consecutive years of flat growth and earnings, the Jordanian phosphate industry has started implementing a major expansion programme that may rely heavily for sales and financing on barter and offsetting deals with its major trading partners in Japan, the United States and Europe.

During 1980-83, Jordan's phosphate exports rose by less than five per cent to reach 3.7 million tons in 1983, generating net revenues of \$160 million. This figure includes the income from another 615,719 tons of phosphate rock sold domestically to the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company at Aqaba, which processes it into chemical fertilisers for export.

A management change early last year brought in Waseel Azar as general manager, and he has embarked on an aggressive new strategy that includes a combination

of cost-cutting and increased production and exports.

The workforce has been cut by some 20 per cent, to 3,300. Other savings in fuel use, spares and operational contracts have combined to give the 90 per cent government owned Jordan Phosphate Mines Company Ltd. (JPMC) a profit of JD 8.2 million last year, compared to 1982 profits of JD 5.1 million.

Mr. Azar credits the cost-cutting measures with maintaining the company's profitability, as it was reaching a point where the cost of producing a ton of phosphate rock was greater than the international sales price of a ton of rock.

Already concluded sales contracts will see the company finish this year with production of 5.8 million tons, and total sales of at least 5.6 million tons, generating revenues of \$180 million. Expansion plans costing JD 35 million over the next three years will increase production from the three existing mines to over seven million tons per year by 1987. These

expansion projects include buying several more of the giant walking dragline excavators used to remove the overburden that covers the phosphate deposits in the ground, upgrading processing plants and material handling systems, and improving storage, maintenance and transport systems.

Barter deals

An increasing share of export sales will include barter arrangements by which foreign contractors and manufacturers selling to the JPMC or to other public sector entities will be paid partly or fully in phosphate rock that the company will sell on behalf of the foreign companies in their own countries. The revenues from the sales of this bartered phosphate rock will go to pay for the services and goods purchased from the foreign companies.

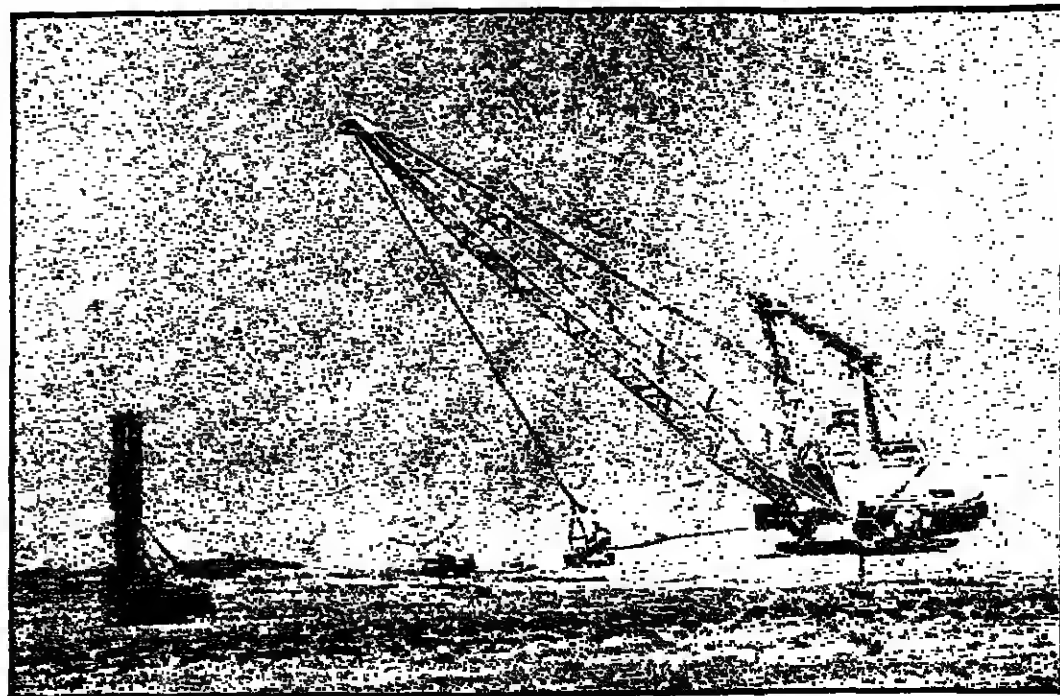
The Jordanian state railways hopes soon to clinch a major deal to buy new phosphate wagons from France that will be half paid

for in phosphate rock that the JPMC will sell to French customers. In another deal, Japanese buyers have agreed to take an extra 100,000 tons of rock a year after a Japanese firm won the contract to expand the existing cement factory at Fuhels. This Japanese arrangement will be repeated in the future, as the Jordanian government starts applying more widely its recent decisions to award major contracts to companies from countries that agree to increase their purchases of Jordanian phosphates.

"We are forced to offset our imports from major industrial states with sales of phosphates or other minerals we produce," Mr. Azar said in an interview. "Otherwise we will find ourselves in the future with an enormous balance of payments problem."

Transport and storage

The JPMC's three minesites (Continued on page 3)



The walking dragline in use at Al Hassa mine

Saudis condemn storming of consulate in Beirut

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia reacted angrily Saturday to the storming of its consulate in west Beirut by a group of Shi'ite Muslims, saying it was a barbaric act.

A statement by the Saudi embassy in Beirut, issued by the official Saudi Press Agency, said "the embassy strongly condemns this barbaric act which is a violation of diplomatic immunity and international norms."

The statement said the Saudi government was keen to facilitate travel procedures for pilgrims, "but the powers of evil always try to make up feeble excuses behind which they hide and commit crimes."

About 150 Lebanese Shi'ite Muslims stormed the Saudi Arabian consulate in west Beirut Friday, emptying official records onto the street and setting the building ablaze as armed police watched.

The group had broken off from a procession of about 400 Shi'ite marchers protesting the kingdom's failure to issue visas for the Muslim pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca.

Late Friday night, Saudi embassy Charge d'Affaires Abu Bakr Rafti said King Fahd had ordered 6,000 visas to be issued to Lebanese wishing to join the pilgrimage, Beirut Radio said.

Earlier Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who had visited the kingdom less than a month ago seeking Saudi financial aid for his war-devastated country, apologised and said he hoped nations whose embassies are attacked in Lebanon "will not take us to account for such conduct."

In an earlier attack Friday, gunmen fired two rocket propelled grenades at the British embassy, and in mainly Muslim west Beirut, causing extensive damage but no casualties.

Mr. Karami also briefed envoys from Britain, France, China, the United States and the Soviet Union — the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — on a formal complaint

Lebanon will lodge with the council on Israeli actions in South Lebanon.

He said the envoys had listened with understanding to his case accusing Israel of "fascist practices" in the South.

Three days ago Israeli troops imposed greater restrictions on travel to the South, banning private cars from the only active crossing point into the area and tightening security checks on trucks.

Armed police, who normally guard the Saudi embassy compound with armoured vehicles, stood aside as the protesters lobbed stones at the consulate then ransacked and set it ablaze. No one was hurt in the attack.

A witness said demonstrators tore down the Saudi flag over the compound and raised the Iranian banner.

Lebanon's top Sunni-Muslim religious leader, Mufti Hassan Khaled, condemned the action, saying:

"The kingdom, which proved on all occasions... its political and reconstruction support for Lebanon, should in no way have received such treatment."



A repairman sweeps debris from the balcony of the British embassy's consular section Friday after two rocket propelled grenades were fired at the embassy (AP wirephoto)

Israel expected to ask for \$700m in U.S. aid

By Gary Putka

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Israel is expected to request a \$700 million increase in U.S. financial assistance as an emergency measure to shore up the deteriorating Israeli economy.

A bid to Washington to boost aid about 27 per cent in the fiscal year starting Oct. 1 would quickly follow the formation of a government by Prime Minister Shimon Peres, according to top officials in Mr. Peres's Labour Party.

It is understood that budget planners in the caretaker government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir also are formulating a request for an increase in U.S. assistance.

In a telephone interview Thursday, Gad Yacobi, Mr. Peres's designated finance minister, said he envisions asking the U.S. for about \$700 million in additional aid for fiscal 1985 as part of a rescue plan for Israel's inflation-wracked economy. It isn't known how much might be sought if Mr. Shamir stays in power, although Israeli newspaper reports have speculated the number could be much higher than \$700 million.

In fiscal 1984, Israel is receiving \$2.61 billion from the U.S. making it the largest recipient of American foreign aid.

Some U.S. diplomats in the Mideast give Israel a good chance of getting emergency aid, especially if the assistance is tied to Israeli economic austerity measures, for which Washington has been pressing.

But the new aid request could touch off a debate in Washington about whether more U.S. aid should be tied to policy goals. In private, some U.S. diplomats have recently said that because of Israel's increased need for U.S. funds, Washington should try to persuade Israel to soften its stand on making peace with the Arab World.

Israeli government sources are confident that U.S. congressional support for Israel is strong enough to carry an emergency request. U.S. diplomats generally echo this sentiment. Secretary of State George Shultz is said by U.S. officials to be taking "a special interest" in Israel's economic problems, and would support emergency U.S. help if Israel tightens its belt.

One U.S. diplomat in the Mideast said that he would press the administration to urge Israel to stop its settlement policies on the Israeli-occupied West Bank as one of the austerity measures. Mr. Peres has promised to curb, but not halt, settlement in occupied territories, which has been a major sticking point in getting talks going on the Palestinian problem — Wall Street Journal.

Israeli chief negotiator says pressure continues to reach trade pact with U.S., page 7

But there has been no new push and Israeli First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan said Saturday Israel's leaders had delayed the offensive for fear of massive casualties.

In Kuwait, Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah said before leaving for Baghdad

that Arab nations were seeking to arrange a summit conference on the war.

"We will prepare for an Arab summit conference to discuss the Iran-Iraq war," he told reporters. Official sources said Sheikh Sabah would also present the latest views of leading West European nations on the war.

Earlier this week he met the ambassadors of Belgium, Britain, France, Italy, the Netherlands and West Germany, at their request, for talks on latest regional developments.

The Gulf war hattlefields have been relatively quiet lately but strikes against shipping in the Gulf continue.

The ministers meeting here are all members of a committee set up by an emergency Arab foreign ministers session in the Iraqi capital in March. Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi will attend the talks.

The committee's members have travelled widely to brief world leaders on the dangers posed by the Gulf war and the threat that it may spread.

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Arab envoys gather for Gulf war talks

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Foreign Ministers of seven Arab countries met here Sunday to discuss the latest moves in the Iran-Iraq war and possible ways to end the conflict, now approaching its fifth year.

Ministers from Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Morocco, North Yemen and Tunisia are to draw up what the official Iraqi News Agency INA described as a new plan to rally world efforts "in the face of Iranian intransigence."

No details have been released, but informed sources say it aims to rally world support for Iraq's position on peace talks and Iran's refusal to negotiate.

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Jordan to host seminar for Arab news agencies

BEIRUT (Petra) — A special technical seminar on a network for Arab news agencies will be held in Amman on Sept. 1, according to Dr. Farid Ayar, secretary general of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA).

He said that 12 Arab states will take part in the seminar which will discuss technical matters connected with the establishment of a unified Arab network for communications to facilitate the exchange of news and information among Arab countries and between the Arab World and foreign nations.

At the seminar the delegates will try to fix certain points within the Arab World which can serve as links in the projected Arab news agencies network and will draw up recommendations to be referred to the coming general conference of Arab news agencies, Dr. Ayar said.

He said countries expected to attend the conference are Libya, Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Syria, North Yemen, Mauritania and Jordan.

Also experts from UNESCO, the Arab League and the Arab Telecommunications Organisation will attend the conference, he added.

China's economic cooperation is open to Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

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U.S. carrier to enter Red Sea next week

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Navy aircraft carrier America will enter the Red Sea next week from the Indian Ocean, but will not take part in the multinational effort to locate and destroy suspected mines, U.S. Defense Department officials said Friday.

These officials, speaking on condition they remain anonymous, said the big carrier will sail through the Red Sea and then the Suez Canal enroute home after a tour of duty in the Arabian Sea.

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"We will prepare for an Arab summit conference to discuss the Iran-Iraq war," he told reporters. Official sources said Sheikh Sabah would also present the latest views of leading West European nations on the war.

Earlier this week he met the ambassadors of Belgium, Britain, France, Italy, the Netherlands and West Germany, at their request, for talks on latest regional developments.

The Gulf war hattlefields have been relatively quiet lately but strikes against shipping in the Gulf continue.

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King condoles Majali family

KARAK (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday delegated Karak Governor Ahmad Al Qum'an to present the King's condolences to the Majali family on the death of Mr. Karim Al Majali.

Hikmat, Zaben tour airport

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Taher Hikmat and Minister of Communications Dr. Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben Saturday visited Amman Airport in Marja.

The two ministers, accompanied by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director General Khaled Mohammad Ali, toured the various buildings of the airport to explore the possibility of the Ministry of Communications using some of these buildings for postal service purposes.

Mr. Hikmat also inspected the various sections of the airport and discussed activating work at this airport to support the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA). Mr. Hikmat also paid a visit Saturday to the Queen Noor Civil Aviation Training Institute where he toured its various sections and was briefed on its training courses. The minister stressed the necessity for supporting this institute in order to qualify and train the necessary technical cadres in the civil aviation field.

SSC to invest in tourist facilities, Dead Sea hotel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tourist hotels and resthouses at archaeological areas and in Aqaba in addition to housing projects for government employees will be new areas for investment by the Social Security Corporation (SSC).

The corporation's director, Farhi Obaid, said that 50 per cent of SSC surplus funds will be employed in financing such projects which have a social rather than an economic nature.

SSC will initially invest money in building housing units for employees of public corporations and these units will cost between JD 4,750 and JD 13,000, Mr. Obaid said. He said that the project will create jobs and that people will

benefit by having homes of their own provided with basic services.

Housing employees in these units, distributed in different areas of Jordan, will help stop the movement of people from rural to urban regions, Mr. Obaid added.

The SSC has prepared plans for building a new hotel at the Dead Sea and will develop tourist facilities in Aqaba, which the corporation has purchased from the Tourist Hotels and Resthouses Corporation, according to Mr. Obaid.

He said that the SSC has set up a special committee chaired by Labour Minister Tayseer Abdul Jabbar to supervise the work of investments in hotels and resthouses.

RSS to conduct tests on Alia equipment, materials

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will offer services and conduct tests on materials used in aircraft owned by Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, under a contract signed here Saturday.

The contract provides for RSS laboratories to test paper and cloth and other soft material used inside the planes and to carry out

chemical analysis on oil and fuel used by these planes.

The RSS will conduct tests on sensitive and electronic equipment used by Alia's aircraft and will also carry out required maintenance on them. The contract was signed by RSS Director Fakhreddin Al Daghestani and Alia Director General Mahmoud Balqaz.

Contract signed for new Zarqa-Jerash highway

AMMAN (Petra) — A local contracting firm Saturday signed a contract with the Ministry of Public Works for opening a new 34 kilometre road to link Zarqa with Jerash to run by the town of Sukhneh near Zarqa.

The road, which will have two lanes, interchanges and bridges, is expected to cost JD 6 million. Under the contract, work on the project should begin before the

end of the 1984 and finish in 30 months.

The road will be 30 kilometres shorter than the present Zarqa-Jerash road and will be used mainly for the transportation of agricultural products, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Public Works.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Public Works Rayef Nijem and the director of the contracting company.

Arab Bank, cement company aid youth centres

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Bank has made a donation for the setting up of a youth centre in Sweileh. The step comes in response to a call by Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah Oweidat in which he called on Jordanian businessmen, banks and private institutions and companies to contribute to the building of youth and sport centres all

over the country.

The board of directors of the Jordan Cement Factories Co. has also made a donation of JD 92,000 for establishing two youth centres in Mahes and Fuheis.

Earlier this month Dr. Oweidat has called on Jordanian businessmen and institutions in the private sector to contribute tow-



Water Authority of Jordan Director-General Mohammad Al Keilani (second from right) and representatives of contractors Saturday sign agreements to build sewerage projects (Petra photo)

WAJ signs eight sewerage agreements worth JD 505,000

AMMAN (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Saturday signed eight agreements worth more than JD 505,000 with local and foreign firms for preparing designs and studies and for supervising the implementation of work on sewerage projects.

The agreements cover studies and designs for sewerage systems in Sweileh, Safout and Ain Al

Basha at a cost of JD 61,006, the implementation of work on a sewerage system at Al Baqa'a camp at a cost of JD 56,844, in Marka at a cost of JD 41,708, Taharbour at JD 34,779, at Wadi Seer, Umm Al Summaq and Tiaa Al Ali at a cost of JD 39,430.

They also covered supervision on the implementation of a sewerage network for Salt at the cost

of JD 139,160, restoring the ancient Roman pools in the city for JD 149,854 and studies on draining waste water at several sites in Jordan at the cost of JD 18,995.

The agreements were signed by representatives of the firms undertaking the projects and WAJ Director General Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani.

AAU delegates prepare for conference here

AMMAN (J.T.) — A meeting for the Association of Arab Universities (AAU) will open at Amra Hotel on Monday. The two-day meeting will elect a new secretary general for the association and will also consider a new permanent venue for the association's headquarters.

The AAU at present has its headquarters in Riyadh and the delegates are expected to choose Amman for a permanent headquarters, according to sources at the University of Jordan. The acting AAU Secretary General Mohammad Dughaim has arrived in Amman to prepare for the conference.

Fires in Balqa district destroy 8,767 trees

SALT (Petra) — Fires which broke out in Balqa governorate during the first four months of this year as a result of careless picknickers and farmers have destroyed a total of 8,767 fruit and forestry trees planted in an area of 216 dunums, according to Balqa Agriculture Department Director Isam Naser.

Exhibition displays works of true traditional craftsmen

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

JERASH — Attractively displayed amongst the stones and pillars of Jerash is a colourful and varied exhibition of traditional crafts from Jordan and the West Bank. Located in the tetrapylon area, where the east and west colonades meet, the craft exhibition consists of approximately 25 small wooden shops where artisans display their handiwork.

However, this is not just an exhibition of wares as many of the participants are craftsmen in the true sense of the word; chiselling, engraving and weaving on the site to show visitors the techniques, labour and time that it takes to make the final product.

For this reason it is well worth stopping for more than a casual browse on the way to or from a show, as the craftsmen are not only willing to display their skills and to offer information, but some are also interesting characters with unusual tales to tell.

For example, the impressive mother of pearl bust of His Majesty King Hussein, crafted by 26 year-old Lawrence Hanania from Bethlehem, has a dramatic story to go with it. Mr. Hanania told the Jordan Times that the bust was made to mark the 33rd anniversary of King Hussein's accession to the throne and said that it took him more than two years of hard work to obtain a close likeness. The bust was completed two days before the Jerash Festival began, Mr. Hanania said.

"I faced so many difficulties trying to complete the bust on time," he said. "I had to come to Amman to obtain some photographs of King Hussein, but these were confiscated by the Israeli authorities on my way back to Bethlehem. I then had to depend on my memory and I also tried to draw quick sketches of His Majesty whilst watching the television," Mr. Hanania said.

Anonymous threats

"I started receiving anonymous threats telling me to stop work on the bust which I ignored, resulting in the burning down of my workshop in Bethlehem. Acting on impulse, after I started receiving the threats I used to take the statue home with me which saved it from destruction," he said.

Mr. Hanania went on to say that this increased his determination to complete the bust and to participate in the Third Jerash Festival, adding that he is very proud to have done so.

The bust, displayed outside the workshop at Jerash, draws large crowds and is the focus of attention at the craft exhibition. Carved in wood and inlaid with natural mother-of-pearl to complement skin tones, the 7.5 kilogramme bust shows the King in military uniform. Mr. Hanania said that he hopes to present the bust to King Hussein at the end of the festival.

Mr. Hanania is also exhibiting an unusual and creative display of mother-of-pearl works. Kettles, telephones and other appliances, coated in mother-of-pearl and red and white shells are on show alongside the more traditional inlaid boxes and models of the Al Aqsa mosque.

Another craftsman from Bethlehem, Carlo Hanania, is displaying marble ornaments at the exhibition. Mr. Hanania, who has been working with marble for over 40 years, uses red and pink marble from the West Bank in addition to white Italian marble which he transforms into ornate and unusual decorations using fine tools.

Mr. Hanania said that he came from the West Bank especially to attend the Jerash Festival and to present a gift to Her Majesty Queen Noor the chairperson of the Higher Committee for the Jerash Festival. Mr. Hanania's son, Bassim, is studying his father's craft "to keep the history and traditions of my country alive".

Several participants from last year's craft festival have set up their stalls again this year. Abu Esau and his loom are back, weaving intricate geometrical designs using wool and camel hair. The beautiful colours were traditionally obtained from natural dyes such as saffron, indigo, curcuma and cactus, but are now mostly chemical. The type and size of the loom is another factor determining the character of the carpet; upright looms operated by a man are used to produce the patterned rugs, whilst ground looms, operated by women, produce long rugs with a striped pattern. Um Khalid sits cross legged on the floor pulling the fibres together with a hand tool as a rich, earthy coloured rug is produced.

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Delegation to study new social, economic plans

Arab development team to discuss projects, finance

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the Arab Fund for Arab Economic and Social Development (AFESD) arrived here Saturday for talks with National Planning Council (NPC) officials on financing Jordan's development projects. The delegation is led by Dr. Mohammad Al Imadi, chairman of the fund's board of directors.

Food security

Referring to the issue of achieving Arab food security, Dr. Imadi said that the Arab World imports more and more food every year and that the deficit in the Arab World's food balance amounted to \$700 million in 1970 whereas it rose to \$20 billion in 1982, which means the Arab World's reliance on food imports increased by 15 times over a period of 12 years.

This serious situation has prompted the AFESD council to dispatch teams to Arab states to look into means of securing food for the Arab World and to take resolutions and recommendations for implementing as many agricultural projects as possible to achieve that goal, Dr. Imadi said.

AFESD strives to implement agricultural projects in almost all Arab states and has invested 650 million in these projects, Dr. Imadi added.

The Kuwait-based AFESD has an authorised capital of KD 400 billion and its activities focus mainly on promoting the economic and social development of Arab countries through financing development projects.

In a statement upon arrival here, Dr. Imadi said that the delegation's six-day visit to Jordan is within a programme of inspecting projects financed by AFESD, and to study ways for speeding up the implementation of these projects and exploring the possibility of contributing to new schemes.

The AFESD has granted Jordan loans totalling JD 42.2 million over the past few years to help it carry out projects which have an overall cost of 148 million Kuwaiti dinars, Dr. Imadi said.

The most important projects in which AFESD is participating include: a plan for organising the northern approaches to Amman, expected to cost JD 5 million. AFESD is also assisting the development of the production of electric power at the cost of JD 6 million and a second power project which costs JD 5.9 million as well as the Aqaba water project

which will cost JD 2.1 million, a telecommunications project JD 5 million, a factory for producing white cement costing JD 5 million, water projects in rural areas costing JD 700,000, Aqaba electricity project which costs JD 5 million, the ground satellite station costing JD 2 million, agricultural credit facilities for farmers in the Jordan Valley amounting to JD 2.5 million and the Zarqa-Mafraq road reaching the Syrian border that will cost JD 4 million.

According to Dr. Imadi, AFESD has sent a team of specialists to Jordan who are now conducting feasibility studies on projects to develop the southern Jordan Valley projects, developing the Zarqa River basin, mainly for agricultural purposes and for exploiting underground water for irrigation.



Mother-of-pearl bust of King Hussein made by Lawrence Hanania (J.T. file photo)

displayed in the tetrapylon area.

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After the initiative

NOT many people should have been taken by surprise when the U.S. envoy to the United Nations, Jeane Kirkpatrick, implied on Saturday that President Reagan's Middle East initiative of September 1982 was "outdated." The initiative could not really be taken seriously when Washington refused to exert any political pressure on Israel to accept it. The proposal was aborted by the U.S. administration itself when the uninterrupted flow of arms and subsidy money to Israel was not halted; when the strategic cooperation agreement between the U.S. and Israel was signed; and when the U.S. veto came in the U.N. Security Council in 1983 against the continuation of the Israeli settlement programme. It was not only Israel's rejection of the Reagan plan that has actually killed it.

It was not transparent at the start that the plan was generated by diversionary motives to calm and appease the "moderate" Arabs as instigated by Mrs. Kirkpatrick in her interview with Israel Radio on Saturday. The plan then was not viewed in Jordan as being engineered as an act of stalling and gaining time immediately after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the exposure of biased U.S. policy as might have been admitted by Mrs. Kirkpatrick in her interview.

The feeling in the Arab World at that time pointed all fingers of incrimination at the U.S. lack of political credibility in the area and its need for a planned continuity of purpose.

In hindsight, we say to Mrs. Kirkpatrick that the plan was stillborn. It was killed by Washington first of all. It was "outdated" right from the moment of its birth.

The political vertebrae for a permanent peace plan has to embody the basic constituents of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338. Any plan without the calculated pressure to implement it is bound to fail. Israel's rejection of the plan and U.S. apathy and indifference exposed the real purpose of "tactical manoeuvres" which appear intended at sedating the Arab public opinion. But the main fact remains that the U.S. loss of credibility with the big question marks about its political integrity will in the end reflect badly on the U.S. and, sadly, on all those of us who once cherished a hope of America's sense of justice and objectivity, as well.

Ambassador Kirkpatrick's statement yesterday confirms the old notion that it is the U.S. policy which creates room for its strategic rivals in the area. But the main issue remains: what sort of political ramifications will result if the U.S. withdraws its initiative, as Mrs. Kirkpatrick indicated yesterday. This is a different question for now. One day soon though, it will have to be tackled — and answered.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Lebanon complaint, U.S. veto

THE LEBANESE government has finally decided to lodge a complaint with the U.N. Security Council about Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon and its actions there. It is easy for any observer of U.N. activity to imagine the scenario which will follow the complaint. After receiving this complaint formally the council will call for a meeting to decide on the date of the session and when the session is finally held it will witness speeches by the different delegates. The speeches will be followed by the submission of a resolution condemning Israel's occupation of South Lebanon, but this will be killed by the American veto because Washington cannot allow its ally in aggression to be condemned by the world community, even if the resolution called for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces without condemnation, the U.S. is sure to veto it because that resolution would harm Israel's interests and impede its colonisation policies.

Nothing positive then can be expected from the Security Council except that it would underline the unholy strategic alliance between the United States and Israel and their collusion to launch aggressive actions against the Arab Nation.

Two days ago President Reagan called for non separation of ethics from politics, but his U.N. delegate will not hesitate to veto any resolution and would not feel ashamed of proving to the world at large Washington's total backing for Zionist occupation of Lebanese territory. The U.S. and Israel possess sufficient power to kill any resolution that favours the Arabs and their rights and they both have little respect for principles and human values, regardless of what their leaders brag about.

The only way remaining for the liberation of Lebanon is through mounting national resistance now active in the South, which will never rest until Israel is driven out of all Lebanese territory for ever.

Al Dustour: Arabs should back Egypt's call

EGYPT TOOK a very constructive step by calling for a summit meeting of nations overlooking the Red Sea because it wants to reach a collective decision on measures to ensure safety of international navigation in the waterway. This call reflects a serious desire by Egypt to remove all sources of danger threatening navigation.

The safety of navigation in the Red Sea and the Suez Canal should be the concern of all countries overlooking that waterway more than that of the great powers which have sent their fleets to the area in search of mines. All the Arab countries should back Egypt's call and show favourable response to it if they want to ensure safety of passage and secure voyages of oil tankers and ships carrying passengers or pilgrims to the holy places in Saudi Arabia. The Red Sea was and will remain an Arab lake, and therefore requires Arab responsibility for its safety and efforts to prove to the world that Arab waters are under Arab countries' protection.

Sawt Al Shaab: Painful Arab reality

IT IS painful indeed for an Arab citizen to look around and find that this Arab Nation is threatened day and night by all sorts of dangers. In the East the Iranians threaten Iraq and the Gulf states, and in the west Israel confronts four Arab states and occupies all of Palestine, and parts of Syria and Lebanon. There are other dangers threatening Arab waters nowadays and there is bloodshed in South Lebanon, South Sudan and the Western Sahara.

If an Arab citizen listens to radio broadcasts of certain Arab countries, he will hear campaigns being launched against other Arab states which tend to deepen hatred among brothers rather than bring them closer to one another. The Arab World abounds with natural resources but these are not exploited for the benefit of the whole nation, as Arab leaders are not seriously concerned with the future of their nation. It is pitiable to see that the situation is so and that Arab leaders do not want to think of ways to repel dangers threatening their nation. They are not interested in making peace with one another and ending differences and disputes which weaken them and make them an easy prey for their enemies.

Learning to live with exposure

By Fahed Fanek

THE MAIN features of the Jordanian national economy stem from the fact that it is a small economy. The World Atlas indicates that at least 75 members of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are smaller than Jordan in population, and around 100 members are smaller in the volume of the national income. Yet, Jordan is obviously a small country with all the particulars that come with small economies.

One of the main features that stand out is the wide exposure to the outside world. This includes imports and exports, capital flow and travel movement.

The total value of imports and exports of goods and services in 1983 exceeded JD 2.1 billion or 150 per cent of the gross national product (GNP).

As for capital inflow and outflow we find: JD 288 million in government receipts (aid and transfers), JD 340 million in

transfers made by Jordanians working abroad, JD 170 million in external borrowing by the public sector. External debt service in 1983 reached JD 90 million etc...

As for movement of people, we find that around 30 per cent of the Jordanians travel abroad each year, one of the highest ratios in the world. Annual arrivals of all nationalities were almost equal to the entire population of the country.

In this environment of being wide open and fully exposed to regional and international influences (which is inevitable for a small country) there must be lots of ups and downs, successes and setbacks, induced by external factors. Hence the need to maintain a relatively large reserve of gold and foreign exchange, and trying to accumulate more in high years and consume less in low ones as a very last resort.

Under these circumstances, the monetary stability becomes of the utmost importance to compensate for the exposure to imported instability and fluctuation of prices. One of the best methods prescribed by the IMF to tackle such a situation is to peg the local currency to a basket of major international currencies or to the special drawing rights (SDR), a policy which is already adopted by Jordan.

By the same token, small economies call for substantial cover to the local currency in the form of gold and transferable foreign exchange, which should not be allowed to drop beyond a certain level specified by the law. Jordan used to cover its currency at a minimum of 100 per cent in gold and transferable currencies, but is recently becoming more liberal on this point.

Due to lack of depth to absorb shocks and influences, fluctuations in small economies are deep-reaching and may go to the extremes. If the prices of shares in the stock exchange rise, they will climb too fast and beyond the reasonable limits as happened in 1981, and if they plummet they do so in an exaggerated manner, as is happening right now. Prices of real estate also fluctuate due to supply and demand shifts.

In a small economy, there is hardly a place for large-scale industries, unless they enjoy a clear-cut comparative advantage, and are able to compete in the international markets. In such situations it is imperative to encourage small manufacturing enterprises, firms, services such as tourism and finance.

Protection for an infant industry is advisable provided it is not exaggerated to the extent

of allowing waste and inefficiency of management. In any case the policy of dictating prices based on (cost plus) must be avoided, because the result would be rising costs, punishing efficiency and savings, and awarding waste and mismanagement. Under these circumstances, production will be confined to the domestic market.

However, large-scale industries in a small country, such as phosphate, potash, and fertilisers (in our case), will have an advantage in that management can manoeuvre in the international markets without fear of retaliation. Jordan's share of the world market is so small that a reduction in our prices will not be matched by other major producers and competitors. Our major industries ought to be flexible and aggressive in their pricing policy, in order to be able to sell

the maximum they can produce even under a recession situation. The problem is reduced to pricing, and survival depends on cost control.

Small and under-developed economies, such as ours, tend to create some islands of progress and high productivity. Examples of advanced islands in Jordan are: Alia. The Central Bank, Housing Bank, Jordan TV, Hussein Medical City etc...

These islands have the potential of becoming either centres of power, attracting a negative attitude from the public opinion, or pilots and leaders pulling the society to progress. It all depends on the existence of an overall coherent and futuristic policy of the state, to make these islands work within the framework of this policy, to complement it and not to be derailed at the expense of other priorities.

'Europe has got a different position from U.S.' on the Mideast

It was as Britain's ambassador to the United Nations during the Falklands crisis that Sir Anthony Parsons gained much of his international reputation, handling a delicate and difficult situation with dignity and grace. But a large part of his career was spent in the Middle East.

He has served the British government in Ankara, Amman, Cairo, Khartoum and Bahrain. He was ambassador to Tehran during the revolution there in 1978-79 and witnessed the downfall of the Shah — an experience he wrote about in a book published in London this year.

An affable man with an easy smile, Sir Anthony has been a Senior Research Fellow at Exeter University since his retirement at the end of 1983, after serving as British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's special adviser on foreign affairs. He was interviewed by the Cyprus-based Middle East Times' correspondent Sara Towse.

Q: Sir Anthony, you have said the Middle East has proved to be more stable than the West expected it to be thirty years ago, with the same regimes in power, at least in the Arabian peninsula, for two centuries. Could you comment?

A: There was so much change going on in the whole of the "Third World" as it came through the independence period in the 1950s. After one or two upheavals in the Middle East the West somehow assumed that this was bound to flow over the whole region.

Indeed, I believe it would have if it hadn't been for certain unpredictable events — for example, the June war of 1967 was a turning point in this process. By 1967 Nasserism looked pretty irresistible. Every regime which had opposed it had either fallen or was under very strong pressure.

But immediately after the Arab defeat in the June war all the momentum went out of that whole movement. The attempt to overthrow the regimes in the Arabian peninsula stopped overnight. The Arab regimes realised that they needed the status quo in the area in order to have access to the wealth of the peninsula, in order to recover from the blow the war had given them. And if they created chaos down there they would be shooting themselves in the foot.

Q: Do the Arabs have more common sense in their political dealings than they have been given credit for — in the sense of knowing when they can make a big issue of something and when they can't?

A: Yes, I think that certainly is true. There has always been in the Arab World a gap, as it were, between rhetoric and actual policy. What happened through the 1950s and early 1960s was that the strength of the rhetoric did actually inflame the emotions to such an extent throughout the whole area that the rhetoric and policy became one. It was having a spontaneous effect.

Q: You were in Iran at the time

of the fall of the Shah. Why did the West misjudge the situation so terribly?

A: I think we misinterpreted it, rather than misjudged it. Certainly as far as the British were concerned, it never crossed our minds that the Shah was popular. It was a word we never used in connection with him. But we thought that so long as his army remained strong, united and loyal he could control the situation.

We failed to read the lessons of Persian history. The armed forces have never been the central political force in Iran. Civilian pressures, once they mounted, always proved too much for them historically, and this happened again.

The Shah and his own establishment made the same mistake. They didn't think they were in any danger until very, very late. It wasn't until September that it came to me that what they probably would do would be to bring the whole country out on strike. Which is what they did.

Q: You said recently that Iran is to the Soviets what Mexico is to the United States?

A: Sure.

Q: In what way do you see the Soviet Union protecting their interests?

A: I wanted to draw a parallel, because there is a view in the United States that the United States and the West have very right to be involved in the Middle East — so what the hell is the Soviet Union doing sticking their nose in.

If you look at the Middle East from the Kremlin, however, it looks very different. Iran is just down the road. And just like in Texas and Mexico, you've got homogenous societies on both sides of the frontier, in Azerbaijan and Turkistan and on the Caspian shores.

So they are very, very preoccupied by Iran. It doesn't mean they know what to do about it. They're preoccupied by Iran in the same way the United States is preoccupied with Mexico.



Sir Anthony Parsons

Q: It has been said that the Gulf War is the only conflict situation where the United States and the Soviet Union find themselves aligned. Do you agree?

A: I think there's something to that, maybe. But I've always felt that at the end of a very long day the Soviet Union would consider Iran to be intrinsically more important to Soviet interest than Iraq. That's not to say they won't support Iraq at this stage, or that they don't want Iraq to win. But I can never see the Soviet Union totally turning against Iran.

Q: Coming to Western policies in the Middle East — why doesn't Europe do more to counter the U.S. support of Israel, as they have stated in the Venice Declaration?

A: I've been dealing with the Palestine problem on and off since 1945. And I've dealt with my European colleagues and I've dealt with my American colleagues.

It's perfectly true that Europe has got a different position from the U.S. You've only got to read the Venice Declaration — that wouldn't be subscribed to by any American administration. European governments have a private dialogue with the United States all the time. This goes on continuously. But the United States is, after all, our principal ally —

the country probably closer to Britain politically than anybody else. Now just to fire off a lot of rhetoric is not actually going to change things.

Q: But the Arabs want Europe to do something.

A: What can we do about it? Let's take a hypothesis — that we take the Venice Declaration into the Security Council and put it down as a resolution. I know as well as I know my own name that the United States would veto it. For their own reasons.

Now, I would consider myself a very poor ally, a very poor friend, however wrong I might think they are about Palestine, if I knowing slapped down a resolution that I knew my closest ally and pretty well my oldest friend was going to have to veto. It's a very irresponsible act, even though I do think their policies are wrong.

Q: So the alliance between Europe and the United States is more important than Middle East policy?

A: No, I'm not saying that. It's more important than scoring rhetorical tricks. If I thought that a public posturing by Britain and Europe was actually going to bring about a change in U.S. policy towards the Palestine problem, I would advocate it. But jumping up and down and making a noise irritates

the United States a great deal. We all know why U.S. policy is formed in the way it is. I don't see much virtue in jumping up and down.

Q: Will there come a day when Arabia takes its liberties elsewhere?

A: It's very difficult to answer. I've always found it difficult to understand why the Arabs don't actually implement these threats to distribute contracts elsewhere, move their money elsewhere, gradually reduce their volume of oil, or something. The fact of the matter is, they haven't.

Q: Do you think they should?

A: Do I think they should? Well, no, I'm not saying they should. But it rather surprises me that they have not.

I think the Arabs wouldn't like to hear me say this, but although they appreciate the implacable pro-Arab stance of the Soviet Union on Palestine, their general psychological alignment is toward the West.

How many Arab children have been educated in the Soviet Union? How many Arabs go for medical treatment or holiday to the Black Sea coast in the Soviet Union? How many of them have bought houses around Moscow?

We've been neighbours for a millennium, and I think this is a natural direction. Therefore, something makes them feel that they have to go a long way before they will absolutely irrevocably damage this relationship.

Q: You believe that a monarchy in a small state could be a good system. This is something many Westerners, especially Americans, would say is a thing of the past.

A: Although I wouldn't exchange our political system in England for any other system, because ours has evolved in the way which suits us best, I don't necessarily take this to mean that the multi-party system that we've developed in the Western world is automatically the best for everybody.

I've seen what I might call traditional monarchy working in the Arabian peninsula and provided the society is small enough — this is very important — you get a degree of accessibility between ruler and ruled that we don't have in the Western world. For example, when I was in Bahrain years ago, the emir sat in public council three times a day, seven days a week. And every day at least 500 people went into that council. How long is it since anybody has had that kind of access to the prime minister?

It provides a sense of participation on the part of the people. It provides a feeling that they can have their wrongs reversed. They have direct access to the people in power. Of course, it can't work when the population gets too big.

Q: Do you see an Arab identity growing in the Arab World?

A: I think there is a very strong Arab identity — there always has been.

It doesn't necessarily connote political union of separate powers of the Arab World. There is a much stronger one than there is — say — a European identity, because of the common language which makes a great deal of difference, particularly in modern communications. In the last sixty or seventy years, there has evolved an independent Arabic language — not classical but a modern educated Arabic which is as comprehensible to a Moroccan as it is to someone in the Gulf.

Q: Then this Arab identity is something the West will have to deal with in the future?

A: Oh, very much so. And of course Palestine has been a focal point for it, too.

Q: On the subject of the Gulf War, do you believe that the conflict will just peter out?

A: Heavens knows. What I can't see is an actual formal peace being signed between President Hussein and Khomeini.

Q: Is that the only way it could end?

A: Short of major escalation or victory on one side or the other, yes.

Q: How much is the empire view of the world still a part of British approach to the Middle East?

A: I don't think it is at all. All my adult life has been dominated by decolonisation, by the evaporation of the British empire, by finding ourselves a new role in Europe, and all that kind of thing. This has been the whole ethos behind my life. And we've accepted it.

I think our psychology was given a profound and dramatic shock by the Suez affair in 1956. It was a watershed in post-war British history. Anybody whose mentality had not changed by then, it changed very quickly after that.

Many of my generation were proponents of more rapid decolonisation — having as much independence for everyone as possible, and the best possible relations with people in post-independence. Not trying to hold onto the country. So I don't think our minds have become fossilised in an imperial sense at all.

Wide gulf between rival U.S. manifestos

By Andrew Nibley
Reuter

DALLAS — The manifestos on which Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale will run for president are, as far apart as any two party platforms in 20 years.

The Republican platform approved by acclaim Tuesday at the party convention in Dallas is a laundry list of the kind of conservative ideologies and policies Mr. Reagan has been espousing since he gave up the film set on his way to the White House.

The Democratic manifesto, hammered out in San Francisco a month ago, is a moderate-to-liberal doctrine tailored to fit Mr. Mondale like his expensive business suits.

A wider gulf has not been evident since the 1964 presidential election, when liberal Democrat Lyndon Johnson crushed ultra-conservative Republican Barry Goldwater.

The only common element in the party's positions this year is their blanket condemnation of each other.

In their platform, the Rep-

ublicans recall that under former President Jimmy Carter and his vice president, Mr. Mondale, "no group of Americans was spared from the impact of a failing economy."

They suggest the same would occur with Mr. Mondale in the White House and New York Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro in his old job.

The Democratic document says sticking with Mr. Reagan and Vice President George Bush promises only "a bleak future."

The Republican manifesto, shaped by the conservatives who helped sweep Mr. Reagan into office in 1980, flatly opposes tax increases to reduce the nation's budget deficit, now running at around \$175 billion.

Instead, it would cut taxes further by increasing individual deductions and repealing the windfall profits tax on oil companies. A strong economy will solve the deficit problem, the party in power believes.

It also calls on the Federal Reserve Board, the U.S. Central Bank, to abandon any policies that would make interest rates volatile

and suggests it might be a good idea to rethink the dollar and gold.

The Democratic platform, written almost entirely by the people who engineered Mr. Mondale's nomination victory, sees raising taxes as an integral part of any budget deficit solution.

It seeks a 15 per cent minimum corporate tax, the rescinding of some of Mr. Reagan's 1981 tax cuts, less defence spending and development of a programme to cut health care costs.

On the arms control and foreign policy front, the Republicans advocate continued production of all current nuclear weapons and major defence systems on the grounds the Kremlin will not seek peace unless the United States is militarily strong.

The Democrats seek a mutual, verifiable nuclear weapons freeze with the Soviet Union and cancellation of the MX missile and B-1 bomber weapons systems.

In Central America, the Republicans want the status quo, believing a change in U.S. policy in the region now would be an open invitation to the Soviet Union and Cuba to step in.

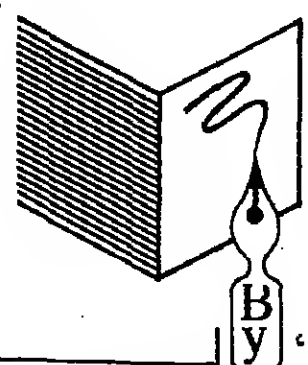
The Democrats favour fewer U.S. military exercises in the region, aid to El Salvador contingent on an improvement in human rights there, and cutting off funds for guerrillas fighting the leftist government in Nicaragua.

Over the objections of the Chinese government, expressed in a telegram to convention leaders, the Republicans included a foreign policy plank that called for self-determination for Hong Kong and reaffirmed U.S. support for Taiwan.

The most controversial foreign policy plank in the Democratic platform was one pushed by the man who lost the presidential nomination to Mr. Mondale, Senator Gary Hart of Colorado. It said the president should not commit U.S. troops overseas without exhausting diplomatic remedies first.

The Republican platform abhors the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which was designed to improve the lot of women, expresses disavowal with abortion and asks for prayer to be allowed in schools.





AMMAN NOTEBOOK

Inad Khairallah

THE OTHER DAY my neighbour's 11-year-old son walked in when I was watching on video some portions of the Los Angeles Olympics which I had missed when they were telecast.

"Oh Uncle, you are home," he said. "let us play chess." I simply pointed to the television and asked him to keep quiet. He peered at the TV and said in a disgusted tone: "Oh, you are watching the American games."

I corrected him I was not watching the American games but the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. "Don't try to fool me," he said. "I know the American flag anywhere."

Los Angeles was in America and it was quite right for him to see the American flag during

the games, I told him. "That is what I said," he replied, "all I could see during the games was the American flag, American crowds and American athletes, and if you tell me it was the Olympics I am not going to believe you."

Whether he believed me or not, the fact remained that it was the Olympics, I reminded him and refocused my eyes on the screen. I could see him watching me with a puzzled expression and I knew he was trying to decide whether I was angry or not.

Apparently he decided to keep peace and sat down near me. After a couple of minutes of watching the diving events on the screen, he turned to me: "Uncle, don't be angry if I ask you a question."

1984 Olympics or just American games?

"You see, I watched every minute of the games broadcast on television and in fact switched to other stations when JTV stopped the broadcast," he explained. "But other than the announcer's words and occasional glimpses of the Olympic flag, I did not see much of athletes from other countries than the U.S."

What did he want to ask, I demanded to know.

"Olympics is an international event, no?" he asked and I said yes. "Then how come the cameras focused on U.S. athletes more than anyone else in Los Angeles?" Well, the reason was that American athletes won more medals than any other competitors, I told him.

"Does it mean that the television people follow only the winners?" was his next question. I reminded him he said he was asking only one question which he had already done, and advised him to keep quiet and watch the TV.

Never mind, he said and wandered around. It was calculated to make me uneasy, I knew, because he was aware that I was sceptical of his far-reaching hands. So I called out

to him that the events on screen were really good, and asked him to come and sit down near me.

He came back and watched the TV for a couple of minutes — the climax of the diving competition.

From the scoreboard it was clear that the American guy was winning, with a Chinese close behind. The Chinese executed a neat dive and I exclaimed: "Beautiful." The boy turned to me.

"Now you know Uncle what I was saying." What was he saying? I asked.

"Don't you agree with me that the Chinese was better than the American?" he asked. Well, it looked so, I said.

"It was the American who won the contest," he said. What was he trying to get at, I asked. "I think the Americans were deliberately given preference," he stated flatly.

It was a team of international experts who were judging the winners, I pointed out, and there was no possibility whatsoever of any preference to any one over any one.

"Well, I don't think so," he shook his head. "Either the judges were not experts and

evaluated the winners on the basis of the cheers of the crowd, or they were biased."

I told him to be his age and not to pass such hasty judgements. But he was adamant, and in a contemplative mood. "They were judging from the cheers of the crowd which followed every dive, I am sure," he said. "There is no wonder the Americans won 130 medals."

How was that? I asked. "Oh Uncle, I did not know you were so stupid," he said. "Didn't you know that more than 80 per cent of the crowd was American?" Well, I did not know the statistics, but it should have been somewhere near that mark, I told him.

"Uncle, did you watch all the events?" was his next question. If I had had, I would not have been watching it on video, I told him. "Come on let us watch the gymnastics," he suggested. "It is more fun."

I fiddled with the video and put on the gymnastics portion of the tape. "Now you will know what I was talking about," he said triumphantly.

We would watch the gymnastics only if he kept his big mouth shut, I told him and he

promised he would. We watched the events for five minutes in peace, but I could see he was hurrying with something. Did he want to say something? I was about to ask before he blurted out: "I think the small girl from Romania deserved the individual medal, and now you will see them giving the medal to an American."

He was not an expert to judge such things, I reminded him, so he'd better keep quite and fulfil his promise. He looked sulky and sat away from me deliberately looking at his finger nails.

I took pity on him and consoled him that he was too young to decide what was fair and what was not, and that was the only reason I was objecting to his running commentary. He was not happy. So I also told him he could be right but that did not make any difference to the Olympics.

He decided to compromise by asking another question: "Uncle, did you watch Zola running?" I did not know who she was, I told him. "Oh Uncle, you seem to know nothing, Zola Budd is a South African girl who became British to run in Olympics," he ex-

plained. I tried hard and recollected something written about her, I told him.

"Do you know what happened to her?" he wanted to know. I said I did not. "Well, she was running in the 3,000 metres and it was a tragedy," his tone was sad. "You see, she was vying with this Mary Decker from America and was in the leading position when this Decker came fell down."

What did the American's fall have to do with Budd? "Well, Decker accused Zola of tripping her," he said.

Did Zola Budd win the race? "How could she win the race when she herself was forced to slacken her speed?" he countered. "It looked as if it was deliberate on Zola's part, but I know different," he added.

What did he know? I was curious. "Like you said Uncle, I am not expert on such matters, but how come this Decker came had Zola's vest number in her hands when she fell down?" I said I did not know, but it was possible that she had clutched at something while falling down and it turned out it was Zola Budd's number.

The boy was dubious. "I

would say that Decker was trying to pull Zola back and fell down in the bargain," he passed his judgement, "especially that Zola was leading and was in front of Decker."

I said I was more than glad that he was not appointed a judge in the Olympics.

He chose to ignore my remark and continued: "This Decker was screaming at Zola and I thought it would have been fun to watch them fight."

Take it easy, I cautioned him, it did not pay to air such remarks at his age, and suggested it would be a better idea to forget Zola Budd and Mary Decker for a moment and to continue to watch the games.

"I am not interested any more," he declared, and was silent for a minute. "One last question, Uncle," he looked pleadingly at me. Okay, I said. "Do you seriously think the Americans would have won all those medals had the Russians gone to Los Angeles?" he looked intently at me.

I got up, switched off the video, pulled open the cupboard, took out the chessboard and suggested a game of chess.

Looted art: Should it go back?

Russell Chamberlin's book "Loot! The Heritage of Plunder"; the systematic theft of art treasures from subject peoples. In the following interview, Chamberlin ponders the realities of the present situation.

By Neil Harris

LONDON — Plundered art treasures stored in museums throughout Europe and North America have become potent symbols in the contemporary search for roots by once-colonial peoples, their ownership a heated subject of controversy. But can the pilaging of the 19th and 20th centuries be undone? Can the onetime be unscrambled?

Even after writing a well-received wide-ranging account of the systematic plunder of weaker nations in "Loot! The Heritage of Plunder" (Thames and Hudson, London, £8.95; Facts on File Inc., New York, \$19.95), historian Russell Chamberlin declines to be dogmatic.

Artistic values, not political ones, must govern the debate about ownership, he said in an interview at his home in Guildford, south of London. Theft in one century did not make expiation in the next a moral necessity.

One of the vivid chapters in Loot! recounts the removal by a British expedition of a collection of stunning bronze masks from the African kingdom of Benin, now part of Nigeria. Nigeria wants the bronzes back to help establish its identity and dignity.

"As citizens of long-established races, we cannot but sympathise with such attitudes," Mr. Chamberlin said. But the attitude he specifically commended as "sane and civilised" was that of New Zealand's Maoris. Shown a catalogue of 5,000 tribal artifacts scattered around the world, the Maori Council decided that it would make no immediate demands for their return because it was "important that other people should know about the Maori."

Loot! surveys the huge stockpile of artistic booty brought to Europe by soldiers, explorers, his-

torians, scholars and fast-talking scoundrels over many centuries, but mainly the colonial heyday of the 19th.

As well as the Benin bronzes, the book tells of the stolen gold of Ashanti in Ghana, massive sculptures, monuments and obelisks dragged off of Egypt (arguably the most looted nation of them all), vital historical documents from Antigua in the West Indies, as well as the Nazi looting in World War II.

The book was enthusiastically noticed by scholars, highlighting as it did a subject of continuing controversy, kept enduringly alive by Greece's claims to the famous Elgin Marbles stripped from the Parthenon by Lord Elgin and kept since then in the British Museum in London.

As a native of a former colony, Jamaica, Chamberlin sympathises with Third World states angered at seeing the fabulous creations of their forefathers locked into glass cases in London, Paris and New York.

And in the case of the Elgin Marbles, he is firmly in favour of their return. "They are part of our unique architectural collection," he said. "Right from the start, people said, 'Here, we have gone too far.'"

But it was a mistake to believe that all the "Third World" was seeking its art returned, he said, and in many cases works were better off in the West.

"One can go into the British Museum regardless of age, colour, sex creed or wealth, and get a bird's eye view of the best the human species has produced."

"It would be a tragedy of enormous dimensions if the British Museum was to be split up," Mr. Chamberlin said.

The sheer extent of the art assembled in Western museums jus-

tified their existence, even if as much as 90 per cent (as at the British Museum) was backstage at any one time. A moderate rotation served the public interest, he said.

Mr. Chamberlin has written books on history for 20 years, aiming usually at the general reader rather than the scholar. He left school at 14 in the Jamaican "sun-set of empire," served three years in the Royal Navy, and spent much of his early career as a librarian in Norfolk, eastern England.

He outlined what he believed was the accepted attitude of the times toward local art when the great looting took place. "The artifacts in our collections were picked up by colonials and explorers as curios. They were not wanted. There was an element of plunder, but that was an element of the times. Everyone was plundering everyone else. Only the Western world cared about conservation."

Solutions other than restitution, he believes, could serve the needs of peoples anxious to rediscover their heritage. While the Antiquarian papers were "the memory of a race," they could be preserved in photostat form.

"The number of works in contention by the 'Third World' are few and emotionally charged. We British are quietly returning things, and the Dutch, too, have been active in returning pieces to Indonesia."

To Mr. Chamberlin, the "permanent loan" device by the British Museum to return to Egypt a 3,000-year-old stone fragment of the beard of the Sphinx is a wise precaution against politicians exploiting the issues of restitution.

But he believes its application is limited. "The idea of the 'permanent loan,' although excellent in theory, does not really answer the problem in practice," he said. "You can't just shunt rare, fragile objects round the planet like so many library books."

LOOT!



THE BURNING OF KUMASI: British soldiers looted the West African Kingdom of Ashanti, then put it to the torch in a punitive expedition in 1874.

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Cubans take 11 out of 12 gold medals in boxing

HAVANA (R) — Cuba showed Friday night what boxing fans missed in Los Angeles by winning 11 of the 12 gold medals in a tournament featuring mainly countries which boycotted the Olympics.

Triple Olympic champion Teofilo Stevenson brought the 17,000 crowd, including President Fidel Castro, to its feet when he capped a tremendous second round comeback by knocking Valeri Abadjan of the Soviet Union almost through the ropes.

The super-heavyweight clash, the last bout of the evening, was the most dramatic. The Russian dominated the first round, his head-on slugging style wearing down the Cuban's defences.

But the local hero fought back and caught his opponent with a vicious combination of hooks which left him hanging over the middle rope at the bell.

Abadjan appeared for the final round but the Hungarian referee decided he was too dazed to

continue. The sports city stadium in Havana erupted in celebration of Cuba's near whitewash of the "Friendship 84 games" boxing.

East German welterweight Torsten Schmidt was the sole foreign gold medalist, although two or three of the Cubans were a shade lucky to win in split decisions.

Schmidt outpointed Jose Luis Hernandez by a generous 4-1. Many commentators thought he performed better than bantamweight Ramon Ledon who survived a second round knockdown from Russian Yuri Alexandrov before winning 3-2.

Light flyweight Karimzhan Abdurajmanov and light welterweight Viacheslav Ivanovski, both of the Soviet Union, also looked unfortunate in losing on

split decisions. They were more aggressive than their opponents and appeared to land most of the effective blows.

But nobody could doubt the overall class of the Cubans against tough opposition from most of East European countries.

Stevenson, 32, was outstanding in what must be one of his final major tournament appearances.

World featherweight champion Adolfo Horta and double Olympic lightweight gold medalist Angel Herrera boxed well within their capabilities to win.

Cuba's display reinforced their reputation as the major power in amateur boxing alongside the United States who dominated the Olympic competition in the absence of their great rivals.

The Soviet Union picked up six silver medals in the 12-nation tournament. Poland won two and Cuba, Mongolia, Hungary and Bulgaria took one each.

East Germany won six Bronze. Bulgaria five, Hungary four, Czechoslovakia, North Korea, Venezuela and the Soviet Union two each and Poland, one.

16 world records set in Friendship-'84 Games

MOSCOW (AP) — With five of nine sports completed in the Moscow leg of the Friendship-84 games, East bloc nations that boycotted the Los Angeles Olympics have set 16 world records and beaten 35 medal-winning performances in Los Angeles.

But Vladimir Salnikov, the superstar of Soviet swimming, had only one more chance to join the record breakers before competition dries up in the pool.

On Saturday, the final day of

the swimming tournament, Salnikov was to attempt to break his own 1,500-metre world record of 14 minutes, 54.76 seconds, having already failed to better his 400-metre world best mark earlier in the week.

But to do so, he had to swim much faster than on Friday when he was about half a minute outside his 1,500-metre best.

A Salnikov record would help boost morale for a Soviet team that has been heavily beaten by



His Highness Prince Mohammad presents an award to one of the winners of the national chess tournament during a special ceremony held Saturday (Petra photo)

Prince Mohammad presents awards to chess winners

AMMAN (Petra) — Winners in the national chess tournament Saturday received cups and medals from His Highness Prince Mohammad, chairman of the

Royal Jordanian Chess Federation.

A total of 135 male and female participants took part in the tournament.

9th Arab Table Tennis Tournament concludes

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ninth Arab Table Tennis Championship tournament ended here Saturday when the doubles and mixed doubles final matches for men and women were concluded at Al Hussein Youth City's Sports Palace.

A special ceremony for honouring the champions was held at the end of the final matches. At the ceremony Minister of Culture and Youth Abdallah Oweidat distributed cups and medals to the winners.

In the women's doubles, South Yemen's Fatima Nasser and Na'ila Hassan won the gold medal and ranked first by defeating Tunisia's Fayezh Ibn Isa and Maha Khumaji who got the silver medal.

The 10th Arab table tennis championship will be held in Algiers in 1986.

The third position went to Syria which won the bronze.

In the mixed doubles, Syrians: Imad Qabbani and Azzah Abdullah won the gold by beating the Iraqis Imad Jihad and Efthihar Juma'a who got the silver. Tunisia won the bronze medal.

In the men's doubles Saudi Arabians: Bandar Al Imeiri and Mashhour Al Khatib won the gold medal beating Syrians Imad Qabbani and Jamal Rihsa who got the silver medal. The bronze medal went to the Iraqi team which beat Jordan.

The 10th Arab table tennis championship will be held in Algiers in 1986.

Liverpool suffers setback

LONDON (R) — Liverpool suffered a major psychological setback when they began their campaign for a fourth successive English Soccer championship with a 3-3 draw at Norwich Saturday.

The European Cup holders appeared riddled with self-doubt amid all the gloomy predictions they would not be the force of old without the flair of Graeme Souness, now in Italy with Sampdoria, and the goal-scoring genius of Ian Rush, who may be sidelined for 10 weeks with a knee injury.

After taking a 2-0 lead within half an hour, Liverpool were fortunate to escape with a point and Norwich might have secured a famous victory had John Deeban not missed from the penalty spot.

With Liverpool in obvious decline, and new-look Manchester United being held to a 1-1 draw at home to Watford, Tottenham issued an early declaration of their title ambitions with a crushing 4-1 away win over F.A. cup winners Everton.

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RESULTS OF HORSE RACES FRIDAY AUG. 24, 1984

* * * * *

FIRST RACE:

For beginners
Distance: 1,000 metres.
Time: 1 minute 16 seconds

1ST:	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	D. El Mshaker	Talab A. El Kadir
2ND:	F. Naour	Mohammad A. El Hady
3RD:	El Baika	Abbas El Adwan

SECOND RACE:

For third class horses
Distance: 1,400 metres
Time: 1 minute 49 seconds

1ST:	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Mansour	Fhaid Mitlak
2ND:	Sholah	Mohammad Abdel Naby
3RD:	Sumayah	Mohammad Suleiman

THIRD RACE:

For beginners
Distance: 1,400 metres
Time: 1 minute 44 seconds

1ST:	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Aneef	Nimir El Hmoud
2ND:	Sayal	H.H. Late Sharif Nasir
3RD:	Azizih	Ibn Jamil Stables

FOURTH RACE:

For third class horses
Distance: 1,400 metres
Time: 1 minute 43 seconds

1ST:	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Apollo	Bahjat Fanous
2ND:	Wadhah	Ghaleb Haddadin
3RD:	Nayfeh	Ghaleb Haddadin

FIFTH RACE:

For second class horses
Distance: 1,600 metres
Time: 1 minute 54 seconds

1ST:	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Talr El Ababid	H.H. Late Sharif
2ND:	D. El Aswad	Bin Jamil Stables
3RD:	Wisam	Ghaleb Haddadin

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Cinema
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(Colour)

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Cinema
AL-HUSSEIN
Tel: 22117

1000 WAY TO KILL

(Colour)
American

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema
RAINBOW
Tel: 25155

SKAPETOWN U.S.A

(Colour)

3:30 6:00 8:30 10:30 p.m.

Cinema
ZAHRAN
Tel: 23171

SPREADING-OUT
(Colour)
"Italian Film"

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema
OPERA

BEST FRIENDS

Abdali, behind ALIA offices

Cinema
PALESTINE
Tel: 22117

**1. The Volcano
2. Bruce Lee and the Bronze Men.**

(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema
RAGHADAN
Tel: 22198

SHARABI

"Indian film"
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

Soviets say U.S. will not win arms race in space

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet daily Pravda Saturday renewed Moscow's charges that the U.S. is avoiding talks on space weapons and warned Washington it could not win a cosmic arms race.

In a commentary accusing the U.S. leadership of "obstructionism", the Communist Party daily said Washington had blocked the proposed talks by insisting that they cover the issue of nuclear missiles as well as space arms.

The article followed a full of more than three weeks during which the Soviet media have said little about the talks.

Some Western diplomats said they believed confidential contacts with the U.S. were continuing during this time.

But Saturday's article indicated

that there had been no change in Moscow's position since it launched a barrage of attacks in July on the U.S. attitude towards negotiations.

Pravda said U.S. strategists now thought they could gain overall military superiority through space weaponry. It warned them that this was illusory as Moscow had always been able to keep up with American arms developments.

U.S. ready for summit

Meanwhile in Los Angeles Pres-

ident Reagan said in an interview published Friday he was willing to meet "anytime and any place" with Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko "but did not believe a meeting would take place before the U.S. election."

In an interview with the Los Angeles Times, conducted in Dallas, Mr. Reagan also said the Kremlin should have no fear of the United States ever starting a war.

"We have... to find an answer to our problems because the United States and Soviet Union are the only two that could cause a war and we're (the United States) not going to cause a war," Mr. Reagan said.

The president said he would welcome a meeting with Soviet leaders.

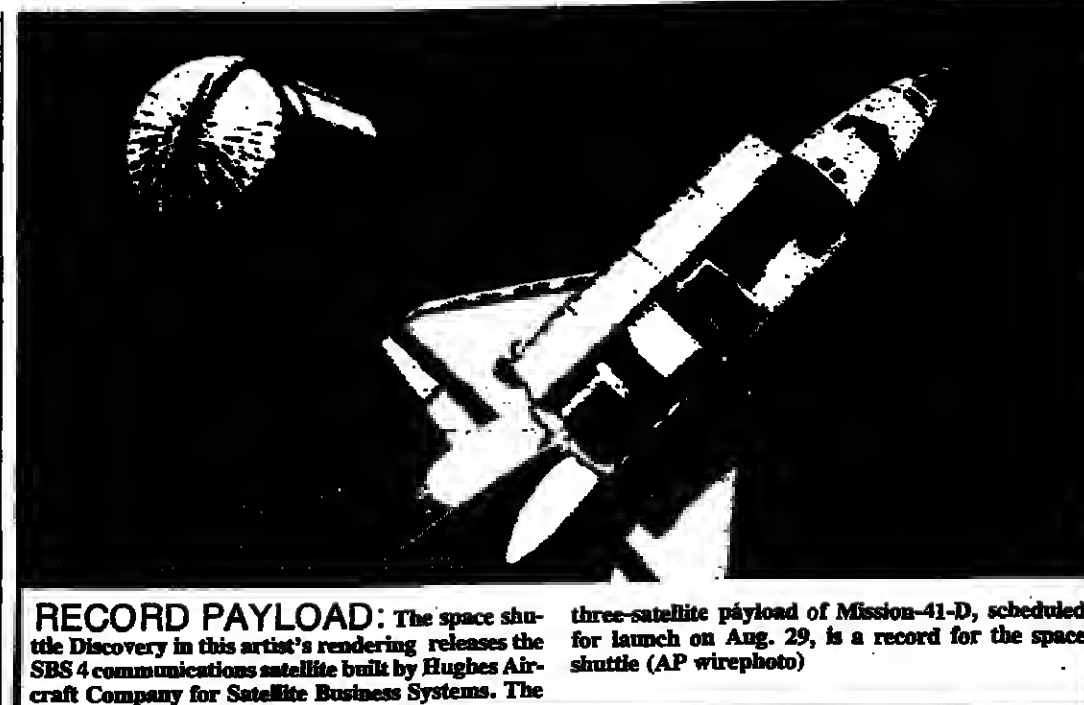
"If they are fearful of us and

really fearful... I would like to do what could be done to eliminate that fear and prove to them we have no designs on anyone," he said.

Mr. Reagan, who earlier had offered to go to a U.S.-Soviet summit meeting before the Nov. 6 presidential election, said: "It appears that's growing less likely."

There has not been a high-level summit of U.S. and Soviet leaders since Mr. Reagan's predecessor, Democrat Jimmy Carter, met Leonid Brezhnev in Vienna five years ago.

Mr. Reagan, who won re-election for a second term at the Republican convention which ended in Dallas Thursday told the newspaper: "We are ready anytime and any place for a meeting."



RECORD PAYLOAD: The space shuttle Discovery in this artist's rendering releases the SBS 4 communications satellite built by Hughes Aircraft Company for Satellite Business Systems. The

three-satellite payload of Mission-41-D, scheduled for launch on Aug. 29, is a record for the space shuttle (AP wirephoto)

Indian protest day starts with blast

NEW DELHI (R) — A bomb exploded at a railway signal box in West Bengal Saturday as a national protest day called by the opposition got underway.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said no-one was hurt in the bomb attack in the Marxist-ruled state's Howrah district, PTI reported.

Trains through the state were cancelled after protestors forced signal operators to leave their posts, took over a railway station and squatted on the tracks, PTI said.

A 24-hour general strike paralysed the state capital Calcutta, India's most populous city. There was no public transport and most shops were shut, PTI said.

Opposition groups went ahead with the "save democracy" day

despite the resignation Friday of Andhra Pradesh State Governor Ram Lal.

Mr. Lal sparked off a political crisis last week when he dismissed Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao, saying he had lost his majority in the state assembly.

At least 25 people died in Andhra Pradesh in violent protests following the dismissal.

More than 30 trains were cancelled in Andhra Pradesh, PTI said. Railway officials said saboteurs were probably responsible for damage to tracks which derailed at least five trains in the state since Mr. Rama Rao was dismissed.

In New Delhi, opposition members walked out of parliament after noisy calls for the assembly to reconvene soon.

PTI said police patrolled Madras, state capital of Tamil Nadu, where authorities declared a holiday to head off possible violence.

Mr. Rama Rao and other opposition politicians accuse Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of engineering his dismissal as part of a plan to topple non-Congress (I) state governments before national elections due within five months.

About 50,000 people attended a rally to protest against Mr. Rama Rao's sacking in New Delhi this week in the biggest show of opposition strength since Mrs. G. returned to power in 1980.

Mr. Rama Rao has warned that his supporters will start a week-long protest campaign in Andhra Pradesh on Monday if the assembly is not convened Saturday.

E. Germany casts doubt on Honecker's Bonn visit

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany Saturday cast doubt on whether its leader, Erich Honecker, would visit West Germany as planned, accusing "certain forces" in Bonn of creating an atmosphere that would make it impossible.

An authoritative commentary in the Communist Party daily Neues Deutschland said remarks by a leading West German politician that "our future does not depend on whether Mr. Honecker pays us the honour of his visit" were scandalous, outrageous and provocative.

The politician was Chancellor Helmut Kohl's parliamentary leader, Alfred Dregger.

The newspaper said: "The world knows what (the remarks) are about. They do not want the possible visit of the chairman of the state council... for which no

date, catalogue of discussion topics or programme have yet been agreed, to take place."

Mr. Honecker cancelled a visit to Bonn last year after similar complaints and the newspaper reminded West Germany of this.

The doubt over this trip, tentatively set for September, follows indirect but sharp criticism by the Soviet Union of Mr. Honecker's policy of improving relations with West Germany.

Neues Deutschland said that in Bonn "certain forces, by no means without influence, are already creating an appropriate atmosphere" for the cancellation of the visit.

It repeated comments issued by the official ADN News Agency that "no one can doubt that, in the face of such things... (Honecker) is not pushing to visit" West Germany.

U.N. body backs Puerto Rican self-determination

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Decolonisation Committee on Friday renewed its support for Puerto Rican self-determination, but did so in milder form than in past years.

The vote on a Cuban-Venezuelan resolution was 11-2, with nine abstentions. Chile and Australia cast the "no" votes.

Cuba, which repeatedly has brought the issue before the special committee over the last seven years, agreed to abandon the more militant language of past resolutions to win Venezuelan co-sponsorship.

Soviet Delegate Nikifor Lev-

ohenko, speaking in support of the resolution, said the United States had turned Puerto Rico into "an unsinkable aircraft carrier" that posed a threat to the rest of the region.

Chilean Ambassador Alfredo Canales denounced Cuba and the Soviet Union for their "biased use of the issue".

Mr. Canales echoed the U.S. position that the committee was not competent to deal with the question since the Puerto Ricans already had opted for commonwealth status in association with the United States 32 years ago.

17 die in mid-air crash

SAN LUIS OBISPO, California (R) — A local airliner and a private plane collided and exploded in mid-air Friday near this coastal California town, killing all 17 people on board the two aircraft, police said.

Wreckage from the twin-engine jet-prop Wings West airliner and the single-engine private plane was scattered over hillsides on the edge of San Luis Obispo, a police spokesman said.

"It appears there were no survivors," he added.

The airliner, a Beech-99, had just taken off from San Luis Obispo for San Francisco with 15 people on board when the collision occurred, the spokesman said.

At least two people were travelling in the private plane, which was registered in Salem, Oregon, he said.

Eyewitnesses said they heard a loud explosion and saw pieces of wreckage falling in flames. Some of the wreckage started a hush fire, which burned across 20 acres.

Investigators of the National Air Transport Safety Board have been sent to the scene.

Lima placed under military control

LIMA (R) — Peru's capital was under military control Saturday after at least 20 people were injured when police baton-charged a rally banned by President Belaunde Terry.

The rally Friday night was called to protest against alleged human rights abuses in the government's anti-guerrilla campaign.

It was the first time that President Belaunde, whose 1980 election ended 12 years of military rule, had turned to the armed forces to preserve order in the capital.

About 2,000 marchers gathered despite his decision to place Lima under the control of military off-

icers with orders to prevent the rally.

March organisers issued a statement saying the march had been banned because the government wanted to cover up human rights abuses during the four-year campaign against Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas.

The statement, signed by a broad spectrum of political and trade union leaders including Lima Mayor Alfonso Barrantes, said hundreds of people had disappeared or been tortured or killed during the campaign.

More than 3,500 people have died and nearly 1,000 are reported to have disappeared in the Sendero battle to topple the Belaunde government.

Congressman Javier Diez Canseco, who leads a coalition of three leftist parties, said he would propose a general strike to protest at human rights abuses.

Mr. Diez Canseco and the National Agrarian Confederation (CNA) have accused security forces of killing 50 people found in a clandestine cemetery in the Andean Region of Ayacucho where the Sendero guerrillas are active.

The Armed Forces Command said it presumed the bodies were those of guerrillas killed in clashes with security forces.

Vatican expresses solidarity with poor

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Pope last week expressed the church's solidarity with the poor, but ruled out any support for them based on "class distinctions and class struggle."

His message, sent to an African bishops' conference, comes amid a Vatican fight to ban priests from using ideas of class struggle on behalf of Third World poor.

Vatican officials said that some Roman Catholic priests, particularly in Latin America, have improperly adopted Marxist theories as they seek to use the Gospel in support of the poor.

The Pope said: "The solidarity of the Church with the poor, with the victims of unjust laws or unjust social and economic structures, goes without saying."

He added: "But the forms in which this solidarity is realised cannot be dictated by an analysis based on class distinctions and class struggle."

He did not specifically mention liberation theology in the four-page message sent to the conference of bishops of southern Africa in Zimbabwe. Liberation theology has primarily taken hold in Latin America, but has also spread to parts of Africa.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the church watchdog body on religious teaching, will question the leading Brazilian liberation theologian, the Rev. Leonardo Boff, at the

Vatican, on Sept. 7.

The West German cardinal, who is leading the Pope's campaign against the Marxist-based branch of liberation theology, says the church works for the poor and does not object to all of liberation theology. He says, however, the Vatican objects to the notions of "class struggle," saying it is incompatible with Christ's teachings. It also objects to Marxism's atheistic principles.

He said that the church wanted "to defend and assist the growing number of refugees and displaced persons in your region" and "to walk hand-in-hand with the migrant workers forced by situations of poverty and underdevelopment to seek a livelihood far from their homes and families."

NATO, Soviets locked in race to develop new combat planes

LONDON (AP) — The United States and its NATO allies are locked in a deadly race with the Soviet Union to develop new high-technology combat planes to win supremacy in the skies.

Military analysts believe that's where the key battle in any East-West conflict will have to be won.

There have been dramatic shifts in NATO and Soviet tactical perceptions in recent years, particularly in NATO's move into a doctrine of "flexible response," boosting conventional forces to reduce reliance on nuclear weapons.

This hinges on the rapid exploitation of Western high technology. Analysts believe the next few years will see a significant improvement in the quality of Western air power, currently outnumbered 2-1 by the Warsaw Pact's air armies.

The aim is to beat off the burgeoning Soviet challenge to U.S. technological superiority that has given American fighters the edge since World War II.

Growing numbers of U.S. F-16 Falcons, Grumman F-14 Tomcats, European-built Tornado F-2s and French Mirage 2000 are now operational.

The new McDonnell-Douglas F-18 Hornet fighter-bomber was scheduled to bolster NATO's air forces. But the U.S. Navy, which plans to buy 1,300 F-18s, this month grounded the Hornets it has after cracks appeared in the

tail sections because of a design flaw.

More MiG 23s

In the East, the Soviets are producing growing numbers of high-tech MiG-23 fighters. NATO codename Flogger, MiG-23s Fox bats, and Sukhoi SU-15 Flagon that experts believe could give NATO's squadrons a tough time.

They also are developing a new strategic bomber known to NATO as Blackjack, believed to be bigger and faster than the U.S. B-1, and the AN-400 Condor transport, the world's biggest plane.

Already operational are more than 50 MiG-31 Foxhounds, the Soviets' first supersonic interceptor with look-down, shoot-down radar capability and comparable to the swept-wing Grumman F-14 Tomcat.

Western intelligence sources said the highly manoeuvrable MiG-29 Fulcrum and the all-weather SU-27 Flanker, expected to be used on the Soviet's new fleet of carriers, will join front-line squadrons over the next 18 months.

These planes are designed to wrest air superiority over the battlefields of northwest and central Europe while Soviet tank armies punch through NATO's outnumbered forces.

They carry new beyond-visual-range AA-9 and AA-X-10 missiles to down low-flying ground attack planes like the U.S. Air Force's A-10 Tankbusters and

British and West German Tornados, a key element in NATO's strategy of hunting any Warsaw Pact thrust.

Western planners believe the opening air battles in any European conflict would be fierce and crucial as Soviet generals hurl their air force at the West to knock out NATO's strike arms and gain air supremacy.

Soviet reorganisation

The Soviet Air Force has been reorganised into five air armies. The old tactical air force, known as "frontovaya aviatsiya," or front aviation, has been merged with strategic forces and air defence forces into integrated command in five "theatres of military operations," or TVDS.

The U.S. Defence Department, in its "Soviet military power 1984" report issued in April, termed this shakeup "the most significant event in the last two decades in the development of Soviet air power."

"Its most significant impact is on the capability to conduct massed offensive air operations in the various TVDS."

The Soviets, who for decades concentrated on small, simply equipped air defence fighters with a secondary ground attack capability, now are building up a formidable fleet of ground attack planes.

These are designed for battlefield support against big tank and troop concentrations.

India-Pakistan tension set to rise over hijacking

KARACHI (R) — Tension between India and Pakistan appeared set to rise after Islamabad let Sikh separatists leave here in a hijacked Indian airliner for the Gulf Saturday despite repeated requests from New Delhi to detain it.

Krishna Sharma, India's ambassador to Pakistan, told journalists he requested delays in both Lahore and Karachi, the Boeing 737's two stops in Pakistan.

"We wanted to delay its departure but we were not listened to," he said in Karachi.

Earlier in Lahore, Mr. Sharma indirectly criticised Pakistan's refusal to extradite to India 14 Sikhs held for two earlier hijackings.

A Pakistani government spokesman said authorities wanted to hold the plane, which had 85 people on board, but the hijackers threatened to kill the pilot and co-pilot.

"We tried to delay it as much as possible, but the hijackers were becoming impatient as time passed," he said.

Sweden protests over Soviet fighter incident

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden has protested to the Soviet Union over an incident in which a Soviet fighter tailed a passenger aircraft for several minutes in Swedish airspace, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

It said the fighter, flying about 28 kilometres inside Swedish air-

space, followed a Swedish charter plane with 276 passengers on board over the Baltic Island of Gotland for five minutes on Aug. 9.

The fighter took up position about 2,000 metres from the Scanair Airbus, the ministry said.

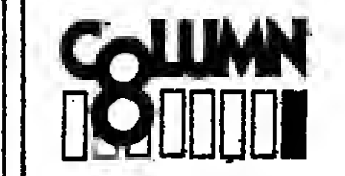
Cholera kills 11 in Kenya

MOMBASA, Kenya (AP) — An outbreak of cholera on Kenya's Indian Ocean coast, a major international tourist destination, has claimed 11 lives, and nearly 300 people are hospitalised with the disease, government hospital officials said Saturday.

"The number of suspected cases

admitted has risen from 20 to 30 a day," said a nurse at the state-run coast provincial General Hospital, who declined to be named because the government has not officially disclosed figures.

No foreign tourists were reported among the victims so far.



Expedition says it found Noah's Ark

ANKARA (R) — The leader of an American expedition to Mount Ararat said Saturday his team had found what they believed to be remains of Noah's Ark on the mountain. Marvin Steffins told a news conference here that the team's finds on the south of Mount Ararat looked "exactly like the Bible." "Although the laboratory tests of the remains that we will be taking to the United States with us will determine the final results, we are certain that we found the exact place of Noah's Ark," Mr. Steffins said. According to the Bible, the Ark came to rest on Mount Ararat after the great flood. Many explorers have searched for its remains in the past. Mr. Steffins said he would ask Turkish authorities for permission to close the area where the finds were detected, 1585 metres (5,200 feet) up on the mountainside. The team included former U.S. Astronaut James Irwin, who was a member of the 1971 Apollo 15 mission to the moon.

Gandhi urges ban on cow slaughter

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has appealed for a ban on the slaughter of cows to be enforced in India, where the majority Hindu population regards the animals as sacred. Agriculture Minister Rao Singh told parliament Friday that Mrs. Gandhi wrote to the chief ministers of India's 22 states after complaints that cows were being killed for their meat. Most Indian states ban the slaughter of cows completely. Some allow killing for reasons of injury or old age.

Soviets breed oil-consuming bacteria

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet scientists have bred a new form of oil-consuming bacteria capable of repairing the environmental damage caused by spillage in the extreme cold of Siberia. TASS News Agency reported Friday. A bacterial strain developed at laboratories in Novosibirsk, western Siberia, was up to 100 times faster at eating up the oil than other strains. It also worked at temperatures from minus 50 to plus 70 degrees centigrade, TASS said. Quoting Ivan Nesterov, director of the West Siberian Institute, TASS said tests on a patch of land saturated with 10 kilograms of oil per square metre had shown that using the bacteria, grass could grow again within ten weeks.

Man who launched supermarket trolleys dies

STRASBOURG, France (R) — Raymond Joseph, the man who launched the wire-mesh supermarket trolley in Europe, has died here at the age of 86, his company said Friday. In 1957 Joseph designed and patented a four-wheeled wire mesh trolley for use in supermarkets which he dubbed a "caddy" after his favourite sport, golf. His company, Ateliers Reunis, now employs 850 people in two factories in France, and exports its supermarket trolleys to 100 different countries.

Asian girl rejects arranged marriage

MIDDLESBROUGH, England (AP) — A British-born Asian schoolgirl was ordered to a children's home by magistrates Friday after running away and trying to get to India to escape an arranged marriage in Pakistan. The court at Middlesbrough, northeast England, directed that the 15-year-old girl remain in the home for 28 days while her case is under discussion. The family could not be identified by the press under Juvenile Court rules. The court said it took notice of the girl's plea for sanctuary in municipal care. Jim Marsh, social services liaison officer, told the court that the girl's ordeal began last April when her mother returned from Pakistan to their home in nearby Stockton-on-Tees and told her she must marry in Pakistan next spring. Marsh said the girl contacted a girl penfriend in Bombay, got the health jobs she needed from the family doctor and drew £500 (£650) from her Mortgage and Loan Savings account. Then she flew to London last Monday, leaving a note for her family who are market traders.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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A TOUCH OF CANADIAN MAGIC

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
 ♠ AK76
 ♥ 565
 ♦ J43
 ♣ K105

WEST EAST
 ♠ J54 ♠ Q103
 ♥ 92 ♥ Q74
 ♦ 9862 ♦ 7
 ♣ J962 ♣ AQ7543

SOUTH
 ♠ 982
 ♥ AKJ103
 ♦ AKQ105
 ♣ Void

The bidding:
 West North East South
 Pass Pass Pass 1♥
 Pass 2NT Pass 3♦
 Pass 3♦ Pass 4♦
 Pass 4♦ Pass 7♥
 Pass Pass Pass
 Opening lead: Six of ♠.

A strong candidate for hand of the year is this one played by Robert Latulippe of Quebec City, reported in the Canadian publication "Melange de Bridge," edited by Eric Kokish.

The auction perhaps leaves something to be desired. North's jump to two no-trump showed a maximum pass and a heart fit, and South drove to the grand slam when he learned that North held both first- and second-round spade control.

A spade lead would have led to the contract's defeat because it would have knocked out an entry before declarer could put it to use. After a club lead, however, declarer was able to justify his bidding.

He played the eight of clubs from the table and ruff-

ed East's queen. After cashing the ace of trumps, he crossed to the jack of diamonds and successfully finessed the jack of hearts. After drawing the last trump, declarer ran four diamonds, reducing the hand to this position:

NORTH
 ♠ AK7
 ♥ —
 ♦ —
 ♣ K10

WEST EAST
 ♠ J54 ♠ Q103
 ♥ — ♥ —
 ♦ — ♦ —
 ♣ J9 ♣ A7

SOUTH
 ♠ 982
 ♥ 10
 ♦ 5
 ♣ 5

When declarer led his last diamond, West could not afford to sluff a club lest declarer cross to the board and lead the king of clubs for a ruffing finesse, which would pin the jack and set up the ten. So he discarded a spade. Declarer led go of dummy's low spade and now East was in trouble. If he pitched a club, declarer would enter dummy with a spade, lead the ten of clubs to ruff out the ace, and make the last two tricks on the table with the high spade and king of clubs.

So East also was forced to part with a spade. Declarer cashed the ace-king of spades, returned to his hand with a club ruff and scored the nine of spades for the fulfilling trick. A double guard squeeze, no less!